

Certificate and Vocational Programs

Many promising careers require professional certification: a diploma or certificate that indicates you have the skills to perform the responsibilities of that career. Certificate/Certification Programs teach students specific career skills in order to obtain a job or specialize in their careers. They are offered at career training schools, community colleges, community-based organizations and online schools.

Most vocational/certification programs should give you some type of credential. Below are the most common:		
Certificate – A Certificate Program is a series of courses providing in-depth study, so you can get the most up-to-date skills and information you need to excel in your chosen field, or transition to a new career.	Certification – Professional or personnel certification is a voluntary process by which individuals are evaluated against predetermined standards for knowledge, skills, or competencies. Many certification programs are affiliated with professional associations, trade organizations, or private vendors interested in raising industry standards.	Apprenticeship – An apprenticeship is a blend of classroom work and on-the-job-training. Apprenticeships combine hands-on work with classroom learning to train the apprentice. Apprenticeships are considered full-time employment. As the apprentice is learning, they are also applying the lessons through working.

Pair Discussion Topics

1. If you are using iMentor's Post-secondary Programs list, which programs interest you?
2. Are there eligibility requirements that you must meet?
3. What are the application timelines?
4. Does the program include pay? If not, will you need to work at the same time?
5. How will you manage the program requirements with a work schedule?
6. What support do you need to make this plan a reality?

Make a timeline with your mentor to ensure you can enroll in a vocational or certificate program after high school. Reach out to your Program Manager with question.

Student Task	Deadline	Notes/Next Steps
Research career interests		
Determine preferred program		
Schedule an appointment with program representative		Representative:
Complete application process for program		
If there are fees associated with your program, determine budget and payment options.		

